



BENTON HARBOR TEENS GRADUATE FROM LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Program Encourages Youth Leadership Responsibility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2007

LANSING. Twenty-eight young women from Benton Harbor were recognized for completing the Michigan State Police's Michigan Youth Leadership Academy at a graduation ceremony at Benton Harbor High School on April 6. The Michigan Youth Leadership Academy provides young people with an opportunity to learn leadership and decision-making skills, as well as build positive relationships with law enforcement officers.

"Programs like this change lives, one teen at a time," said Colonel Peter C. Munoz, director of the Michigan State Police (MSP). "These young women have the power to make a positive difference in their community and with the lessons they learned, they also have the knowledge and support needed to succeed."

During the academy, which was held at the MSP Training Academy in Lansing from April 1 - 6, the young women, ages 14 to 16, received lessons on leadership, responsible citizenship, respect, trust, health, community service and life-coping skills. The academy also included water safety, group workshops and discussions with the teens and officers.

Officers from the MSP, St. Joseph Township Police Department, Benton Harbor Police Department and Benton Township Police Department participated in the academy.

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The teens were chosen for the academy based on recommendations from school, community and law enforcement officials. The teens were required to complete an interview before a panel of law enforcement officers before being accepted into the academy. There is no cost for them to attend the week-long residential academy.

At the ceremony, the graduates were addressed by Judge Mabel Mayfield of the Berrien County Family Division.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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